

DRAFT

A REALLY TERRIFIC SERMON

BY

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TO.....

(GREETINGS TO HOSTS, GUESTS, ETC.)

I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW PLEASED I AM TO BE HERE THIS EVENING, IN THE WARMTH OF YOUR FRIENDSHIP, WHICH HAS BEEN -- AND I'M SURE WILL CONTINUE TO BE -- A SOURCE OF GREAT COMFORT TO ME AND MY FAMILY IN THE MONTHS AND YEARS AHEAD.

IT'S NOT SECRET THAT I SPENT A VERY DIFFICULT FIRST YEAR IN WASHINGTON. BUT I HAD SUPPORT DURING THOSE HARD WEEKS AND MONTHS. THE PRESIDENT AND HIS STAFF STOOD BY ME. SECRETARY SCHWEIKER STOOD BY ME. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HEALTH, DR. ED BRANDT, ALSO STOOD BY ME. AND I SOMETIMES WONDERED WHY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SO MUCH EASIER FOR ANY OF THEM -- AT ANY TIME -- TO HAVE SAID THE OBVIOUS THING, THE EASY THING:

"WE TRIED, CHICK, BUT IT'S NOT GOING TO WORK. THANKS VERY MUCH....AND THE NEXT TIME WE'RE IN PHILADELPHIA, WE'LL CERTAINLY GIVE YOU A CALL."

BUT THEY DIDN'T SAY THAT. AND SENATOR ORRIN HATCH, WHO HEADS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMITTEES IN THE CONGRESS, AND THE MAN WHO HAD TO SHEPHERD MY NOMINATION THROUGH THE BRAMBLES AND POTHoles OF THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, SENATOR HATCH WAS A SOURCE OF GREAT STRENGTH AND COMFORT, ALSO.

BUT THOSE ARE JUST THE PEOPLE HERE IN MY NEW "HOME TOWN." LET ME SAY THAT I WOULD HAVE MADE THE CHOICE MANY MONTHS AGO, TO RE-PACK MY SUITCASES AND RETURN WITH MY WIFE, BETTY, TO OUR HOME IN PHILADELPHIA, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THOUSANDS UPON THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, LIKE THE GOOD PEOPLE IN THIS AUDIENCE THIS EVENING....PEOPLE IN EVERY WALK OF LIFE....PEOPLE IN ALL THE STATES....PEOPLE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS BACKGROUNDS....BUT DECENT PEOPLE, STRONG PEOPLE, THE KIND OF PEOPLE YOU SEND YOUR MESSAGES TO EVERY WEEK....THE PEOPLE WHOM I WAS ASKED TO SERVE.... THEY WROTE ME AND PHONED ME AND DROPPED BY TO VISIT ME....AND THEY GAVE ME A TREMENDOUS FEELING OF COMMITMENT TO SERVE.

I HEARD THOSE MESSAGES OF GOOD WILL AND I READ THE LETTERS AND THE POST-CARDS AND I KNEW THAT I WOULD BE HERE FOR THE LONG HAUL.

YOU AND I HAVE TALKED ON MATTERS OF THE SPIRIT BEFORE. I HAD THE PLEASURE OF ADDRESSING YOUR 1980 CONVENTION IN MINNEAPOLIS. WE KNOW EACH OTHER AND, I WOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE, WE HAVE BEEN GOOD FRIENDS. AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW MUCH I NEEDED YOUR FRIENDSHIP DURING THE PAST YEAR AND -- HAVING RECEIVED IT -- HOW MUCH I HAVE VALUED IT AND WILL CONTINUE TO VALUE IT.

SO I PRESENT MYSELF BEFORE YOU THIS EVENING AS A FRIEND, AS A SUPPORTER OF YOUR OWN GOOD WORKS, AND AS THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE. AND, AS FRIENDS AND CONCERNED CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT COUNTRY, I HOPE WE CAN COUNSEL TOGETHER THIS EVENING ON A VERY IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY THAT IS OURS.

THESE ARE VERY DIFFICULT TIMES....TIMES OF TURMOIL AND FRUSTRATION....TIMES OF QUESTIONING AND THE RAISING OF DOUBTS ABOUT ONE'S OWN WORTH, ABOUT OUR SOCIETY'S WORTH. THE PRESIDENT CAME INTO OFFICE LAST YEAR AND ASKED EVERY AMERICAN TO ASK THOSE TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT LIFE IN AMERICA:

* HOW MUCH OF WHAT WE ARE SHOULD WE OWE TO OURSELVES AND HOW MUCH SHOULD WE OWE TO THE GOVERNMENT?

* HOW MUCH OF WHAT WE HAVE IS A RESULT OF THE SOARING OF OUR SPIRIT -- OR THE RESULT OF A DENIGRATION OF THE SPIRIT?

* HOW MUCH OF WHAT WE DO IS DESIGNED TO TAKE CARE OF ONLY OURSELVES AND OUR FAMILIES -- OR DO WE STILL ACT IN THE NAME OF MANKIND....DO WE KNOW OF THE HIGHER SERVICE?

LET ME SAY THAT NOBODY LIKES TO ASK THOSE KINDS OF QUESTIONS -- BUT THIS IS PROBABLY THE ONLY COUNTRY LEFT ON EARTH WHERE THEY ARE ASKED NEVERTHELESS. I KNOW HOW MANY OF YOU FEEL ABOUT THE MORAL AND ETHICAL FIBER OF THIS COUNTRY. I KNOW YOUR FEELINGS HAVE MUCH EVIDENCE TO BACK THEM UP.

BUT I AM A HOPEFUL MAN. AND WE ARE A HOPEFUL ADMINISTRATION. AND THE RAISING OF HARD, SOUL-SEARCHING QUESTIONS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD REALIZING YOUR HIGHEST HOPES. AND WE'VE GOT TO DO THAT.

AND LET ME TELL YOU, THE QUESTIONS ARE VERY HARD, INDEED, IN ALMOST EVERY AREA OF HUMAN ENDEAVOR IN WHICH GOVERNMENT HAS HAD SOME INTEREST. IN THE AREA OF HUMAN HEALTH -- PHYSICAL AND MENTAL WELL-BEING -- WE HAVE HAD TO STAND BACK AND LOOK LONG AND HARD AT WHAT SOCIETY HAD ASSUMED AS SOCIETY'S JOB AND AT WHAT EACH INDIVIDUAL MUST ASSUME AS HIS OR HER OWN RESPONSIBILITY.

I CAN TELL YOU, THAT'S ALMOST REVOLUTIONARY. FOR MANY, MANY YEARS WE HAVE TRANSLATED THIS COUNTRY'S ESSENTIAL COMPASSION AND DECENCY INTO DOLLARS AND PROGRAMS THAT SOMEBODY ELSE -- SOME OTHER GROUP OF PEOPLE, SOME ORGANIZATION OR OTHER -- WOULD SPEND AND ORGANIZE. IN THE AREA OF HUMAN HEALTH, THIS BASIC, DECENT INCLINATION HAS COME TO COST OVER \$70 BILLION OF FEDERAL MONEY. OUR FRIENDS IN STATE GOVERNMENT HAVE SPENT OVER \$35

MILLION A YEAR. IN OTHER WORDS, OVER \$100 MILLION A YEAR HAS BEEN SPENT BY FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS ON THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OF AMERICANS. AND THE QUESTION IS, "HOW MUCH OF THIS IS APPROPRIATE?....HOW MUCH OF THIS OUGHT TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN CARE OF BY THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES, OR BY THE NON-GOVERNMENT SECTOR, THE PRIVATE SECTOR?"

THIS ISSUE, WHICH WAS RAISED BY THE PRESIDENT DURING HIS CAMPAIGN FOR OFFICE AND HAS BEEN RETURNED TO AGAIN AND AGAIN, IS NOT FUNDAMENTALLY A MONEY ISSUE. I DON'T WANT TO GIVE THAT IMPRESSION. YES, THE COSTS ARE HIGH -- BUT THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE WE ARE GRAPPLING WITH IS FIRST PERCEIVED IN DOLLARS, BUT THEN IS CORRECTLY PERCEIVED IN TERMS OF AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY. AND THOSE ARE THE TERMS TO WHICH I WANT TO DIRECT MY REMARKS -- AND YOUR ATTENTION -- FOR THE NEXT FEW MOMENTS.

INCIDENTALLY, I KNOW THAT, TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, I'M BRINGING COALS TO NEWCASTLE. YOU KNOW A GREAT DEAL ABOUT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY. THAT IS A DOMINANT THEME IN MUCH OF YOUR PROGRAMMING, REGARDLESS OF THE PARTICULAR RELIGIOUS TRADITION OR DENOMINATION YOU SERVE. AND IT HAS BEEN A PART OF MY LIFE FOR MANY YEARS AS WELL.

MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT, FOR SOME 20 YEARS, I WAS PRESIDENT OF THE EVANGELICAL FOUNDATION, NOW KNOWN AS THE EVANGELICAL MINISTRIES. IN THAT POSITION, AND THROUGH KNOWING THE GOOD WORK OF ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THIS, DEVOTED TO RELIGIOUS BROADCASTING, I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES COULD ASSUME PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THEIR OWN WELFARE AND THEIR OWN DESTINIES. PEOPLE LIKE DONALD ~~GEORGE~~ GREY BARNHOUSE AND BEN HAYDEN, REGINALD THOMAS AND JAMES MONTGOMERY BOICE -- THESE MEN INFLUENCED MY THINKING AND MY ACTIONS DURING THE YEARS OF INVOLVEMENT IN THE FOUNDATION. AND THEY BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION COUNTLESS EXAMPLES OF PERSONAL STRENGTH OR COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN TIME OF NEED.

SO YOU KNOW AND I KNOW THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE A STRONG AND INDEPENDENT BASE UPON WHICH TO BUILD. I THINK WE BOTH WOULD AGREE THAT THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE PAST FEW YEARS -- WHILE A RESPONSE TO GENUINE NEEDS IN THE HEALTH AREA -- MAY HAVE GROWN FAR BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF WHAT A HEALTHY DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY CAN SUPPORT FOR THE LONG TERM.

IS THERE AN ALTERNATIVE? IS THERE ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS? I BELIEVE THERE IS. I BELIEVE, AS THE PRESIDENT BELIEVES, THAT WE HAVE TO RETURN TO A FAMILIAR,

TIME-TESTED, AMERICAN WAY OF GETTING AT MANY OF OUR PROBLEMS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES.

AT THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST MEETING WITH HIS TASK FORCE ON PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES, HE SAID WE NEED TO "REDISCOVER AMERICA...THE AMERICA BEYOND THE POTOMAC RIVER, THE AMERICA WHOSE INITIATIVE, INGENUITY, AND INDUSTRY MADE OUR COUNTRY THE ENVY OF THE WORLD, THE AMERICA WHOSE RICH TRADITION OF GENEROSITY BEGAN WITH SIMPLE ACTS OF NEIGHBOR CARING FOR NEIGHBOR."

I LIKE HIS USE OF THE PHRASE "REDISCOVER AMERICA.... REDISCOVER...." IN OTHER WORDS, IT'S HERE, ALL AROUND US, THE SOLUTION WE'RE LOOKING FOR, THE ANSWER TO WEANING THE COUNTRY AWAY FROM THE SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC TREASURY, GETTING THE COUNTRY BACK TO A HIGHER DEGREE OF SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND SELF-RELIANCE. IT'S THERE. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE. WE NEED TO FIND IT AGAIN. IT WAS DISCOVERED IN THIS RICH AND BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY THREE CENTURIES AGO. NOW WE NEED TO REDISCOVER THAT SPIRIT OF SELF-HELP, OF COMMUNITY, OF FAMILY STRENGTH, THAT SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE THAT IS FUNDAMENTAL TO THE HUMAN SPIRIT IN AMERICA.

THE TERM MOST COMMONLY USED TO EMBRACE THIS CONCEPT IS "VOLUNTARISM." I DON'T LIKE MOST "ISMS." BUT I LIKE THAT ONE.

I GREW UP WITH THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTARISM PREACHED TO ME BY MY OWN FAMILY AND BY MY CLERGY. AND I'M NOT THE EXCEPTION. I THINK MY EXPERIENCE IS THE RULE IN THIS COUNTRY. THE PRESIDENT HAS STRUCK A DEEP AND RESONANT CHORD IN THE AMERICAN CONSCIENCE BY HIS EMPHASIS ON VOLUNTARISM. IT RESONATES IN MY OWN CONSCIENCE, IN THE CONSCIENCE OF MY CHILDREN, IN MY COLLEAGUES BACK IN THE PHILADELPHIA MEDICAL COMMUNITY AS WELL AS MY NEW-FOUND COLLEAGUES HERE IN WASHINGTON.

I THINK THE PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR GREATER EFFORTS BY THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR OF AMERICAN SOCIETY IS IN THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN TRADITION, GOING BACK TO THE PREREVOLUTIONARY DAYS OF THE FOUNDING COLONIES AND CONTINUING RIGHT UP TO TODAY. IT IS NOT AN OLD IDEA -- IT IS A NEW AND RE-NEWED IDEA THAT OUR SOCIETY NOURISHES DOWN THROUGH THE GENERATIONS:

* AMERICANS CONTRIBUTE SOME \$47 BILLION TO CHARITABLE AND RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS EVERY YEAR.

* OUR CITIZENS PERFORM WORK OF A CHARITABLE NATURE THAT WOULD BE WORTH \$100 BILLION, IF YOU HAD TO HIRE PEOPLE TO DO IT.

* IN THE HEALTH FIELD, 19 VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED A HALF-BILLION DOLLARS IN CONTRIBUTIONS IN 1980 --

GROUPS LIKE THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AND THE EPILEPSY FOUNDATION, THE EASTER SEAL SOCIETY, THE MARCH OF DIMES-BIRTH DEFECTS FOUNDATION, AND THE COMMITTEE TO COMBAT HUNTINGTON'S DISEASE.

AS GOOD AS THAT IS, MY MESSAGE THIS EVENING AND FOR MANY MONTHS TO COME IS -- WE'VE GOT TO DO BETTER. IN ALL HUMILITY I BRING THAT MESSAGE TO YOU IN THE HOPE THAT YOU WILL SEND THAT MESSAGE OUT TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY, THE GOOD PEOPLE WHO LISTEN TO AND WATCH YOUR PROGRAMMING.

THERE IS MUCH WORK TO BE DONE IN HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL SERVICE IN THIS COUNTRY. GOVERNMENT ISN'T GOING TO DO IT ALL ANYMORE. IT DID FOR A WHILE, BUT THAT AGE HAS PASSED AND WE NEED TO SHARE THAT UNDERSTANDING WITH ALL OUR CITIZENS. I DEEPLY BELIEVE THEY WANT TO KNOW, THEY WANT TO LEARN HOW THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE, THEY WANT TO HAVE THAT SHINING FRAGMENT OF THE HERITAGE OF AMERICA PUT BACK IN PLACE IN THE GREAT ARCH OF DEMOCRACY WE BUILT ON THIS CONTINENT. PARTICIPATION IN THE GOOD WORK OF AMERICA IS PARTICIPATION IN THE RICH HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN AMERICA. THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL, AS WELL AS A TIMELY, MESSAGE TO SEND THROUGHOUT OUR LAND.

SOME PEOPLE WOULD SAY THAT THIS EMPHASIS ON VOLUNTARISM IS REALLY A BUDGET ISSUE. I GAVE YOU SOME NUMBERS EARLIER, BUT

THIS IS NOT A MONEY ISSUE. THIS IS A CARING ISSUE. THIS IS A COMPASSION ISSUE. THIS IS AN ISSUE THAT ILLUMINATES THE ESSENTIAL DECENCY AND HUMANITY OF OUR SOCIETY.

NOT LONG AGO, THE CONGRESS HAD TO PASS A LAW THAT ALLOWED THIS COUNTRY TO HAVE A DEBT IN EXCESS OF ONE TRILLION DOLLARS. THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY, EVEN TO PEOPLE WHO CAN CONCEIVE OF SUCH A NUMBER. I CAN'T, AND SO I'VE BEEN TOLD ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT ONE TRILLION DOLLARS IS A LOT OF MONEY.

BUT IT IS A FEW DOLLARS SHORT OF THE VALUE OF A VISIT BY SOME YOUNG PEOPLE EACH WEEK TO THE APARTMENT OF AN ELDERLY PERSON SHUT IN BY ILLNESS. ONE TRILLION DOLLARS IS NOT QUITE THE PRICE YOU OUGHT TO PAY FOR AN OLDER MAN TO SPEND A FEW HOURS EACH WEEK WITH A YOUNG BOY WHO MAY BE FATHERLESS, OUT OF SCHOOL, AND OUT OF WORK.

A TRILLION DOLLARS IS LESS THAN HALF THE VALUE OF A NEIGHBOR KEEPING TABS ON HOW WELL A YOUNG WOMAN IS DOING DURING HER PREGNANCY, OFFERING TO DO CHORES FOR A PERSON RECOVERING FROM AN AUTO ACCIDENT, PREPARING MEALS FOR A PERSON AT HOME AND DISABLED BY A DETERIORATING DISEASE.

THESE ARE THE GOOD WORKS OF THE SPIRIT. THEY ARE PRICELESS.

THERE IS NO COUNTY, STATE, OR FEDERAL BUDGET THAT WILL EVER BE BIG ENOUGH TO BUY THE ACTS OF GOODNESS THAT AMERICANS VOLUNTARILY PERFORM.

BUT WE HAVE GONE THROUGH A PERIOD RECENTLY WHEN WE TRIED VERY HARD TO BUILD THOSE KINDS OF BUDGETS. AND WE DISCOVERED -- I HOPE NOT TOO LATE -- THAT IT COULD NOT BE DONE. SO WE HAVE RETURNED TO "REDISCOVER AMERICA"....TO RENEW OUR SOCIETY.... TO REVITALIZE OUR COMMUNITIES....TO REAWAKEN OUR BELIEF IN OURSELVES....TO REKINDLE THE LOVE OF ONE HUMAN BEING FOR ANOTHER --- WITHOUT ANY PRICE-TAG ON EITHER ONE.

(TO BE CONTINUED)